The Trust Fund:
The Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund was established for the purpose of funding medical cure research for spinal cord injuries (H4738, Chapter 276,2004). The fund consists of monies paid to the Commonwealth on a surcharge assessed against persons who seek reinstatement of their license to operate a motor vehicle after their license has been suspended for three speeding convictions in a one year period, or five or more moving violations or surchargeable offenses within a three year period.* One half of the funds went to the General Fund.

The legislation also called for the formation of an Advisory Board which included: Dr. Eric Ruby, Dr. William Sniger, and David Estrada, former Director of the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. With Dr. Sniger's death, Dr. Ron Riesenburger has replaced him on the Advisory Board. With Dr. Riesenburger's resignation, Dr. Robert Winston became the third member of the Board.

Over the years competitive grants have been awarded to Jeffrey Macklis, M.D., P.Hst, of The Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Ted Teng, Ph.D., M.S., M.D. of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Spaulding, Zhigang He, Ph.D. of Children's Hospital, Andrew Reisner, M.D., of MGH, and Christopher Gabel, Ph.D. of BUSM.

Funding for the Trust Fund:

FY 06 $119,675	FY 16 $ 23,375 ****	FY 26
FY 07 $133,300	FY 17 $ 44,250	
FY 08 $132,100	FY 18 $ 741,440	
FY 09 $119,825	FY 19 $ 863,005	
FY 10 $107,225 *	FY 20 $ 970,885	
FY 11 $ 90,825	FY 21 $1,230,415	
FY 12 $ 40,425	FY 22 $865,153	
FY 13 $ 36,625 **	FY 23 $817,685	
FY 14 $ 28,575	FY 24 $790,227	
FY 15 $ 23,600 ***	FY 25 $782,000	

*In 2010 the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) changed the law for loss of license and reinstatement, causing a decrease in funding for both the General Fund and the SCI fund.
**In 2013-2014 the Senate agreed to correct the Scriviner's error, but the bill never left the Third Reading Committee for a vote in the House.
***On July 1, 2015, s~627 was heard at the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance. The Committee agreed to the revision, but would not double the fee to recoup the losses. The Bill, S-1972, went to the Rules Committee.
****On November 6, 2015, Governor Charles Baker signed S-2019, The Thomas Kennedy SCI Research To A Cure Trust Fund Bill. 100% of funds go to the trust. It corrects the Scriviner's error of 2010.